



AN INVITATION TO GROUPS TO VISIT WORLD STAMP SHOW-NY 2016

New York City plays host to the world this coming May 28-June 4 at the Javits Center with World Stamp Show-NY 2016 (WSS-NY 2016). School and other youth groups are welcome and encouraged to visit this free, one-time event. Stamps are not only works of art and design, but tiny ambassadors, bringing the history and culture of their countries to people near and far. Every stamp has a story to tell!

Thousands of enthusiastic educators across the country have been using stamps in classrooms for years as aids in teaching a wide range of subjects. History, geography, biology, math, language and the arts have all successfully been integrated into student curricula using stamps in a hands-on and creative way to enhance the learning process. The 31,000 member American Philatelic Society is the organization sponsoring WSS-NY 2016. Its "Stamps Teach" program (<http://stamps.org/stamps-teach>) has attracted international attention to the hobby of stamp collecting as an educational tool.

There will be an exciting Youth area at NY 2016 with special hands-on activities and interactive learning opportunities that will stretch minds, while providing fun. The theme of the area is *"One World, Many Stamps."* Youngsters have the opportunity to explore the world's geography through stamps with a special Youth World Pass, identifying countries issuing stamps they select and locating them. Youth will be asked to write their "Wish for the World" which will be added to a display. The United Nations activity will have attendees prepare mail that will be sent back to them from the United Nations. A special stamp-themed, continent based activity book includes an opportunity to learn about national flags and symbols.

Diverse exhibits offer opportunities to supplement and reinforce curriculum. Of special interest is a 1652 Edict signed by Peter Stuyvesant and a 100 year old Curtiss Jenny Biplane like those that carried early airmail. The Smithsonian National Postal Museum will exhibit "New York City: A Portrait through Stamp Art."

WSS-NY 2016 opens on Saturday of Memorial Day weekend and continues over 8 days. Admission is free. Thousands of people from across the globe are expected to attend to buy, sell, talk and learn about stamps. Over 200 dealers will be there, too, including the U.S. Postal Service and dozens of international postal administrations selling their most recent issues. Come see the ten million dollar British Guiana stamp and other rarities on display.

Many school groups are expected to attend, so plan early to schedule your visit on the day and time most convenient to your group. Advance registration for groups of 10 or more is required. Free goodie bags await kids and educators alike. After the show we can help with follow-up support and assistance.

Free seminars of interest to educators are also scheduled; advance registration is required:

- *"Using Philatelic Artifacts as Instructional Tools: Ideas and Resources for K-12 Educators,"* Saturday, June 4 from 11 am to 12 noon at the Javits Center.
- *"Small but mighty: using postage stamps to teach graphic design fundamentals,"* Tuesday, June 1 from 4-5 pm
- *"Working With Youth: A Resource Workshop,"* Monday, May 30 from 1-2pm

More information about the show can be found online at <http://www.my2016.org>. Questions and pre-registration inquiries should be directed to Debby Friedman, WSS-NY 2016 Youth Coordinator at debby.friedman@ny2016.org.